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780086-0199ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20521

June 20, 1980

Dear Senator Baucus:

I am writing to follow-up our telephone conversation of April 30 concerning your inquiry of April 15 about human rights violations in Argentina and U.S. policy on this issue. The delay in providing a written response was due to the need to initiate extensive inquiries into some of the matters you raised in your letter and in the enclosures you forwarded from your constituent. Although these inquiries are still underway, you may find this status report helpful.

The U.S. has been deeply concerned by human rights violations in Argentina, and we have repeatedly conveyed our concerns to the highest levels of the Argentine Government. We have urged prompt return to full respect for human rights and to the rule of law. In addition, in the international financial institutions we have opposed Argentine requests for loans for projects which do not meet basic human needs. We have no AID programs in Argentina. Security assistance and sales to Argentina, including military training, were terminated on October 1, 1978, when the Kennedy-Humphrey Amendment to the Foreign Assistance Act went into effect. Even before that date, we had sharply restricted new military training programs and equipment sales because of human rights considerations.

You also asked for our comments on the statement in the March Amnesty International Bulletin that the Argentine Army acquired military communications equipment in the U.S. in November 1978. We are searching our records for any information related to this reported

The Honorable  
Max Baucus  
United States Senate.

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)  
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS  
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director  
( ) Release ☒ Excise ( ) Deny  
Exemption(s): B-6  
Declassify: ( ) In Part ( ) In Full  
( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Declassify on \_\_\_\_\_ Reason \_\_\_\_\_

transfer. A sale occurring after September 30, 1978 would have been illegal if this equipment was covered by Foreign Military Sales (FMS) or Munitions List procedures. The Kennedy-Humphrey Amendment did not, however, halt the delivery of items purchased before October 1, 1978. It is also possible that the specific items mentioned in the article are not controlled by FMS or Munitions List procedures. We are therefore also checking our records of validated licenses issued during that period by the Department of Commerce for items covered under the Export Administration Act. I will write you again when we have completed these inquiries.

Meanwhile, I am enclosing a copy of the Department's report on human rights practices in Argentina, submitted to Congress on January 31. This report constitutes our official view of the human rights situation in that country.

I hope the foregoing will prove helpful.

Sincerely,

Patricia M. Derian  
Assistant Secretary for  
Human Rights and  
Humanitarian Affairs

HA/HR:PJFlood:pdb  
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Clearances: HA/HR:RJacobs (substance)  
PM/SAS:DCox  
ARA/SC:GWhitman  
H:DKenney  
L/PM:TBorek (info)